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THAILAND: Bangkok has taken an important step in readjusting its policy on Communist China.

A Thai National Security Council (NSC) meeting on 10 September recommended that Thailand vote in favor of Peking's entry into the UN at the forthcoming General Assembly, rather than abstain, and that Bangkok vote against the expulsion of Nationalist China. The NSC's recommendation undoubtedly will be rubber-stamped by the cabinet today.

The decision indicates that Bangkok does not intend to make a sharp break with its past policies on China. Nevertheless, it also is clear that even such long-standing hard-liners as Deputy Prime Minister Praphat now see the necessity for bringing Thailand's policies into closer concert with its Asian neighbors, instead of digging in its heels.

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